

FLANNER HOUSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2009-2010 Performance Analysis

Core Question 2: Is the organization effective and well-run?

2.1. Is the school in sound fiscal health?	
STANDARD	The school presents significant concerns in no more than <u>one</u> of the following areas: a) its state financial audits (e.g., presence of “significant findings”); b) its financial staffing and systems; c) its success in achieving a balanced budget over the past three years; d) the adequacy of its projections of revenues and expenses for the next three years; e) its fulfillment of financial reporting requirements under Sections 10 and 17 of the charter agreement. In addition, if the school presents significant concerns in one area, it has a credible plan for addressing the concern that has been approved by the Mayor’s Office.

2009-10 Performance: Meets Standard

Flanner House Elementary School (FHE) has established adequate staffing and systems for managing the school’s finances, has fulfilled its financial reporting requirements, and generally meets its reporting deadlines in a timely and accurate manner.

The Mayor’s Office contracts with an independent accounting firm to complete annual financial performance reviews of each school. Based on a review of FHE’s finances for 2009-10, the Mayor’s Office found that Flanner House Elementary School successfully achieved a balanced budget and ended the fiscal year with adequate cash and investments.

2.2. Are the school’s student enrollment, attendance, and retention rates strong?	
STANDARD	The school is consistently fully enrolled. Student attendance and retention rates are generally at or above the school’s agreed-upon target rates.

2009-10 Performance: Meets Standard

Flanner House Elementary School exceeded its enrollment target for 2009-10. The following chart displays the school’s target enrollment compared with its official fall enrollment, as reported by the IDOE.

Year	Target Enrollment	Fall Enrollment	Percent Below
2009-10	210	232	N/A

Source: Official fall enrollment figures from the IDOE. Target enrollment is the maximum capacity from the school’s charter agreement with the Mayor’s Office, submitted by the school.

The 2009-10 the attendance rate at FHE was above the averages of both the county and the state.

	MLCS	MC	IN
2009-10 Attendance rate	97.80%	95.70%	95.90%

No targets have been established for student retention rates for FHE. The school retained 64% of the students enrolled in the Fall of 2008, excluding those who aged out of the school.

Years	Students Enrolled Initial Year	Students Re-enrolled Following Year	Retention Rate
Fall 2008 to Fall 2009	232	148	64%

***Source:** Mayor's Office analysis of Student Residence report submitted to the IDOE and the Mayor's Office by the school. Students in the 8th Grade class excluded from analysis. Enrollment numbers differ from official IDOE enrollment figures due to this exclusion.*

Based on the 2009-10 performance, FHE meets the Mayor's Office standard for this indicator because they were fully enrolled and had an attendance rate higher than that of both the state and county.

2.3. Is the school's Board active and competent in its oversight?	
STANDARD	The Board's membership collectively contributes a broad skill set and fair representation of the community; Board members are knowledgeable about the school; roles and responsibilities of the Board are clearly delineated; Board meetings reflect thoughtful discussion and progress in the consideration of issues; overall, the Board provides consistent and competent stewardship of the school.

2009-10 Performance: Approaching Standard

The Flanner House Elementary School (FHE) Board membership had been stable since the school opened, represents a broad base of expertise, and members are knowledgeable about the school and its needs.

The Mayor's Office regularly attends Board meetings and examines meeting minutes. Board meeting minutes are clear and well organized. However, several areas of concern relate to the FHE Board and its cancellation of regularly scheduled board meetings. During 2009-10, there were no meetings conducted in August, September, December or January although these meetings were previously noted on the Board's calendar for the 2009-10 school year. The first meeting was held on October 14, 2009.

Additionally, in 2009-10, the FHE board engaged in recruitment of new board members with expertise in the law and marketing/fundraising. However, the Board has not been successful in its recruitment efforts and could greatly benefit from having board members with legal and marketing expertise.

Based on the performance demonstrated in the 2009-10 academic year, the Board at FHE is developing its ability to provide consistent stewardship. Therefore, the FHE Board is approaching the Mayor's Office standard for this indicator.

2.4. Is there a high level of parent satisfaction with the school?	
STANDARD	More than 80% but less than 90% of parents surveyed indicate that they are satisfied overall with the school.

2009-10 Performance: **Meets Standard**

In the spring of each year, researchers administer anonymous surveys to parents of students enrolled at Mayor-sponsored charter schools. In 2009-10, 85% of FHE parents reported overall satisfaction with the school. According to the data, the school meets the Mayor's Office standard for performance for this indicator for the 2009-10 academic year.

2.5. Is the school administration strong in its academic and organizational leadership?	
STANDARD	The school's leadership a) has sufficient academic and/or business expertise; b) has been sufficiently stable over time; c) has clearly defined roles and responsibilities among leaders and between leaders and the Board; d) actively engages in a process of continuous improvement which has led to some mid-course corrections.

2009-10 Performance: **Meets Standard**

Flanner House Elementary School has undergone a transition in leadership. Previously, the school has benefited from strong organizational and academic leadership by the Director of Education, who led the school since its founding.

The current Principal is now in her third year at the school and is in her first Principal position, but has benefitted from the mentoring of the Director of Education. This dual leader structure provided a measure of stability for the school. Some concerns remain regarding leadership sustainability as the Director of Education has been the linchpin of the school and she resigned in June 2010.

Monitoring and oversight conducted by the Mayor's Office has not identified any significant concerns with the administration of Flanner House Elementary School. Therefore, FHE meets the Mayor's Office standard for this indicator.

2.6. Is the school meeting its school-specific organizational and management performance goals?	
Meets standard	School has clearly met its school-specific organizational goal.

Not applicable. Flanner House Elementary School did not have school-specific organizational and management performance goals that were evaluated in 2009-10.